Involvement of States in Export Promotion

4418. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Rs. 20 crore fund to involve the states actively in export promotion effort and set a target for export of growth at 20 per cent;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and its modus operandi;

(c) whether exporters are to be consulted for successful operation of the scheme; and

(d) if so, through which forum or mode and the steps since taken to consult the exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) With a view to making export a national effort involving all the State Governments, a Scheme is being formulated for granting assistance to the states for development of export related infrastructure. The details of the scheme are being worked out.

(c) and (d) The scheme itself has been evolved on the basis of deliberations in the meeting of the Board of the Trade which is a representative body of leading exporters and various apex chambers of Commerce and Industry. The scheme has been appreciated, by and large, by the trade and industry.

WTO Agreement

4419. Shri K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the WTO Agreement is a ploy of the developed countries to further exploit the developing countries;

(b) if so, what initiatives Government have taken to unite the developing countries and ensure protection of national interests of our country as well as of the developing countries; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) WTO Agreements have benefited India and other developing countries in as much as a rule based, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system is essential to ensure effective market access for developing countries like India, who are not a major force in global trade due to their small share, besides being the *sine qua non* for the effective exploitation of trading